

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2 and add new claims 13-24 as shown in the following listing of claims.

1. (currently amended) A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end ~~with~~ while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein the first and second crossmembers are connected to each other at an intersecting portion to form the X shape, and at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension.

2. (currently amended) A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end ~~with~~ while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is directly connected to a structure to be equipped with a suspension.

3. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 2, wherein the structure to be equipped with a suspension is connected to the crossmember within the rear side frames.

4. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 3, wherein the structure to be equipped with a suspension is a pipe disposed within the rear side frames and attached to a member of the suspension to support it.

5. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, wherein the vehicle body has right and left C-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the front ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the C-pillars, respectively.

6. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 2, wherein the vehicle body has right and left C-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the front ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the C-pillars, respectively.

7. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 3, wherein the vehicle body has right and left C-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the front ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the C-pillars, respectively.

8. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 4, wherein the vehicle body has right and left C-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the front ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the C-pillars, respectively.

9. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, wherein the vehicle body has right and left D-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the rear ends

of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the D-pillars, respectively.

10. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 2, wherein the vehicle body has right and left D-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the D-pillars, respectively.

11. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 3, wherein the vehicle body has right and left D-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the D-pillars, respectively.

12. (original) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 4, wherein the vehicle body has right and left D-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the D-pillars, respectively.

13. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, wherein the intersecting portion is formed by compressing the first and second crossmembers in a vertical direction to deform to a plane shape and control height, and enlarging the contacting portions of the connected first and second crossmembers.

14. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 13, wherein a weld is provided at the enlarged contacting portions of the first and second crossmembers.
15. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, wherein the intersecting portion comprises a joint into which interior ends of sections of each of the first and second crossmembers are inserted.
16. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 15, wherein the ends of said sections of each of the first and second crossmembers are threaded into said joint.
17. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 15, wherein the ends of said sections of each of the first and second crossmembers are welded within said joint.
18. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, wherein the intersecting portion includes interconnecting notched sections of said first and second crossmembers.
19. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, wherein the first and second crossmembers are formed by joining a front crossmember structure and a rear crossmember structure, with the front crossmember structure having an intermediate area extending further aft than ends of said front crossmember structure and said rear crossmember structure having an intermediate area extending further forward than ends of said rear crossmember structure, and wherein said intermediate areas are in contact to form said X-shape.

20. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 19, further comprising a connecting member bridging said intermediate areas and connecting said front and rear crossmember structures at the intersecting portion.

21. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 1, further comprising a third crossmember extending in a widthwise direction of the vehicle body, and said third crossmember being connected to front ends of said right and left rear side frames such that said third crossmember is positioned as a front portion of said rear structure.

22. (new) The rear structure of a vehicle body as defined in claim 2, further comprising a third crossmember extending in a widthwise direction of the vehicle body, and said third crossmember being connected to front ends of said right and left rear side frames such that said third crossmember is positioned as a front portion of said rear structure.

23. (new) A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension, and

wherein the vehicle body has right and left C-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the front ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the C-pillars, respectively.

24. (new) A rear structure of a vehicle body provided with right and left rear side frames disposed on right and left sides of the body and extending in the fore-and-aft direction of the body, and crossmembers bridged between the right and left rear side frames;

the crossmembers being approximately an X-shape in plan view and comprising a first crossmember and a second crossmember,

the first crossmember having a front end connected to one of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to the other of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from one of the rear side frames,

the second crossmember having a front end connected to the other of the rear side frames and a rear end connected to one of the rear side frames, and extending in the rear direction of the body from the front end to the rear end while receding from the other of the rear side frames and intersecting with the first crossmember to be connected to one of the rear side frames;

wherein at least one of the front ends of the first and second crossmembers and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers is connected to the rear side frames in vicinity of a structure to be equipped with a suspension, and

wherein the vehicle body has right and left D-pillars extending in the vertical direction of the body, and the rear ends of the first and second crossmembers are extended to the lower ends of the D-pillars, respectively.